In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A device for removing solids from a fluid containment space within a separator vessel for separating liquids, said device comprising:

a hood ~~operative to be~~ arranged at a bottom surface of the fluid containment space, the hood comprising at least one inlet opening provided on a first side of the hood for allowing fluid communication from the fluid containment space exterior of the hood to an inner space of the hood, the hood further comprising at least one outlet opening provided on said first side of the hood on a level above a respective inlet opening for allowing fluid recirculation from the inner space of the hood directly to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood, wherein an upper interior surface of the hood is arranged to direct fluid laterally through the at least one outlet to the fluid containment space and in an essentially horizontal direction or in a direction towards the bottom surface of the fluid containment space,

a drain ~~means for withdrawing~~ operative to withdraw fluids and fluidized solids from the inner space of the hood, and

flushing means arranged outside the hood for directing flushing fluid ~~via~~ from the fluid containment space exterior of the hood towards said at least one inlet opening~~,~~

~~at least one outlet opening provided on said first side of the hood on a level above a respective inlet opening for allowing fluid communication from the inner space of the hood to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood, and~~

~~means for directing fluids through a respective outlet opening on said first side of the~~

~~hood from the inner space of the hood to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood in an essentially horizontal direction or in a direction towards the bottom surface of the fluid containment space~~.

2. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein ~~said directing means~~ upper interior surface of the hood is arranged to direct fluids through the respective outlet opening on said first side of the hood from the inner space of the hood to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood in a direction essentially opposite the flushing direction of the flushing means arranged on the first side of the hood.

3. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the hood further ~~comprising:~~ comprises at least one inlet opening provided on a second side of the hood opposite the first side thereof for allowing fluid communication from the fluid containment space exterior of the hood to the inner space of the hood, and at least one outlet opening provided on said second side of the hood on a level above a respective inlet opening for allowing fluid recirculation from the inner space of the hood directly to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood, wherein an upper interior surface of the hood is arranged to direct fluid laterally through the at least one fluid outlet provided on the second side of the hood to the fluid containment space and further in an essentially horizontal direction or in a direction towards the bottom surface of the fluid containment space, the device further comprising:

flushing means arranged outside the hood for directing flushing fluid from ~~via~~ the fluid containment space exterior of the hood towards said at least one inlet opening on the second side of the hood

~~at least one outlet opening provided on said second side of the hood on a level above the respective inlet opening for allowing fluid communication from the inner space of the hood to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood, and~~

~~means for directing fluids through the respective outlet opening on said second side of the hood from the inner space of the hood to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood in an essentially horizontal direction or in a direction towards the bottom surface of the fluid containment space~~.

4. (currently amended) The device according to claim 3, wherein ~~said directing means~~ the interior surface of the hood is arranged to direct fluids through the respective outlet opening on said second side of the hood from the inner space of the hood to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood in a direction essentially opposite the flushing direction of the flushing means arranged on the second side of the hood.

5. (previously amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the hood is elongated having an inverted V-shape as seen in cross-section.

6. (previously amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the respective outlet opening is provided between a side wall of the hood and a top part of the hood.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A separator, comprising:

a separator vessel for separating liquids; and

a device for removing solids from a fluid containment space within the separator vessel, the device comprising a hood ~~operative to be~~ arranged at a bottom surface of the fluid containment space, the hood comprising at least one inlet opening provided on a first side of the hood for allowing fluid communication from the fluid containment space exterior of the hood to an inner space of the hood, the hood further comprising at least one outlet opening provided on said first side of the hood on a level above a respective inlet opening for allowing fluid recirculation from the inner space of the hood directly to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood, wherein an upper interior surface of the hood is arranged to direct fluid laterally through the at least one outlet to the fluid containment space and in an essentially horizontal direction or in a direction towards the bottom surface of the fluid containment space, a drain ~~means for withdrawing~~ operative to withdraw fluids and fluidized solids from the inner space of the hood, and flushing means arranged outside the hood for directing flushing fluid ~~via~~ from the fluid containment space exterior of the hood towards said at least one inlet opening~~, at least one outlet opening provided on said first side of the hood on a level above a respective inlet opening for allowing fluid communication from the inner space of the hood to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood, and means for directing fluids through a respective outlet opening on said first side of the hood from the inner space of the hood to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood in an essentially horizontal direction or in a direction towards the bottom surface of the fluid containment space~~.

9. (currently amended) A method for removing solids from a fluid containment space within a separator vessel, the method comprising:

directing flushing fluid ~~by~~ with flushing means arranged outside of a hood arranged in the fluid containment space towards at least one inlet opening on a first side of ~~a~~ the hood arranged at a bottom surface of the fluid containment space so as to force fluids and fluidized solids from the fluid containment space exterior of the hood into an inner space of the hood,

withdrawing a part of the fluids entering the inner space of the hood ~~by~~ through a drain ~~means~~, and

directing ~~making~~ another part of said fluids to flow from the inner space of the hood directly back to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood in an essentially horizontal direction or in a direction towards the bottom surface of the fluid containment space through at least one outlet opening provided on said first side of the hood on a level above the respective inlet opening.

10. (currently amended) The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

directing fluids through the respective outlet opening on said first side of the hood from the inner space of the hood directly to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood in a direction essentially opposite the flushing direction of the flushing means arranged on the first side of the hood.

11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

directing flushing fluid ~~by~~ with the flushing means towards at least one inlet opening on a second side of the hood opposite the first side thereof so as to force fluids and fluidized solids from the fluid containment space exterior of the hood into the inner space of the hood, and

making a part of the fluids entering the inner space of the hood to flow from the inner

space of the hood directly back to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood in an essentially horizontal direction or in a direction towards the bottom surface of the fluid containment space through at least one outlet opening provided on said second side of the hood on a level above the respective inlet opening.

12. (currently amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

directing fluids through the respective outlet opening on said second side of the hood from the inner space of the hood directly to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood in a direction essentially opposite the flushing direction of the flushing means arranged on the second side of the hood.

13. (previously amended) The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

making the flushing means during a first mild flushing mode to jet flushing fluid at such a rate that the circulation of fluids between the fluid containment space exterior of the hood and the inner space of the hood will essentially only affect the fluids in the lower part of the fluid containment space and leave the fluids in the upper part of the fluid containment space essentially unaffected by the circulation.

14. (previously amended) The method according to claim 13, further comprising:

making the flushing means during a second heavy flushing mode to jet flushing fluid at a higher rate than during the mild flushing mode.

15. (new) The device according to claim 1, wherein the circulation of fluids between the

inner space of the hood and the fluid containment space exterior of the hood affects essentially only fluids in a lower part of the fluid containment space and essentially does not affect fluid in an upper part of the fluid containment space.